

Almasjid-ul-Aqsa, Jerusalem

## UNIT A

### Allah's Message and Messengers

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# UNIT A CHAPTER ONE

## Prophets of Islam

### CHAPTER OBJECTIVES

- 1 Learn the prophets and messengers in Islam.
- 2 Explore the difference between a prophet and a messenger.
- 3 Identify the main message of all prophets.
- 4 Learn about some of the miracles our prophets brought with them.
- 5 Identify the last and final prophet.

### VOCABULARY

Prophet: *Nabiy* نبي

Prophets: *Anbiyaa'* أنبياء

Messenger: *Rasool* رسول

Messengers: *Rusul* رُسُل

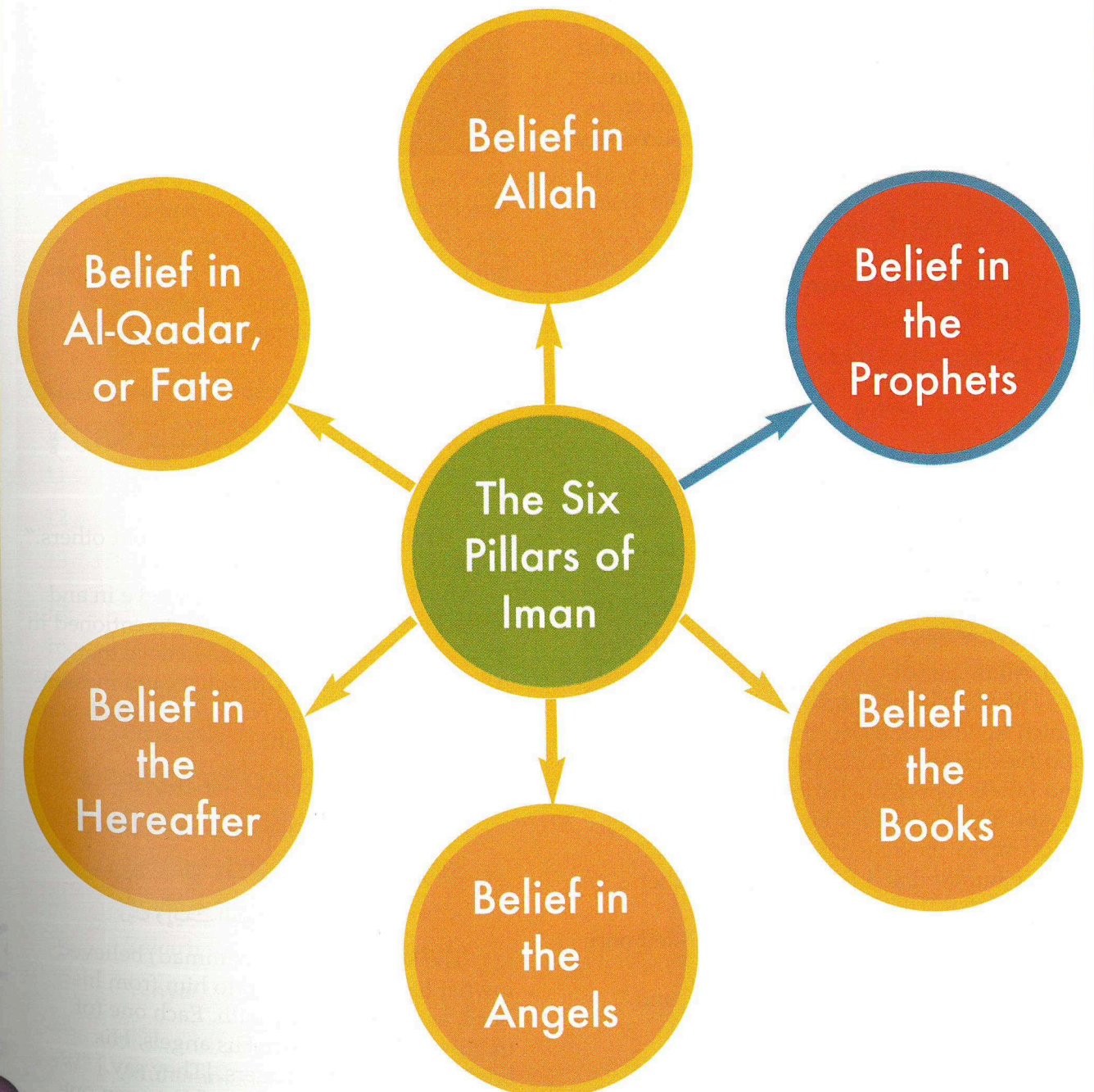
### Introduction

As you learned in earlier years, Allah wanted the message of Islam and the belief in one God to reach all mankind. He did this by sending thousands of prophets and messengers to mankind around the world during all times. You also learned many inspiring facts about many of Allah's prophets and messengers. Belief in the prophets and messengers is one of the six pillars of faith in Islam. The Arabic word for a prophet is *nabiy* نبي, the plural of which is *anbiyaa'* أنبياء. On the other hand, *rasool* رسول is the Arabic word for messenger, the plural of which is *rusul* رُسُل.

In this unit, you will also learn some more about prophets and messengers in Islam. You will enjoy detailed accounts of Prophets Dawood, Suleyman and Ayyoub.



Believing in Allah's prophets and messengers is one of the six pillars of iman, or faith.





## Allah Sent Prophets to All Nations

The Qur'an teaches that God sent prophets and messengers to all nations. Since the beginning of time, Allah has communicated His guidance to mankind through these chosen people. They were all human beings who walked and lived among their peoples. They taught nations about faith in the One Almighty God. Through their exemplary behavior and ideal personalities, the prophets and messengers showed their peoples how to lead a moral and pious life. From the first prophet, Adam عليه السلام, to the last prophet, Muhammad ﷺ, Allah's message eventually reached all corners of the world. Allah says in the Qur'an:

﴿وَلِكُلِّ أُمَّةٍ رَّسُولٌ﴾ يونس: ٤٧

"And for every nation there is a messenger." [10:47]

﴿إِنَّا أَرْسَلْنَاكَ بِالْحَقِّ بَشِيرًا وَنَذِيرًا وَإِنْ مِنْ أُمَّةٍ إِلَّا خَلَا فِيهَا نَذِيرٌ﴾ فاطر: ٢٤

"Indeed, We have sent with you the truth conveying to people Our good tidings and warnings. And there is no nation, which has not been sent a warning (messenger of warning)." [35:24]

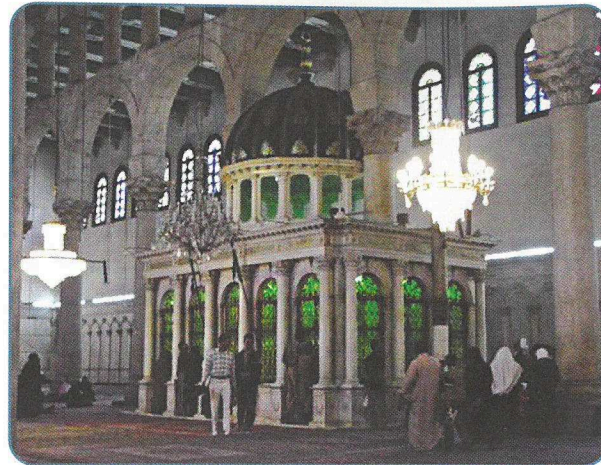
### How Many Prophets and Messengers Did Allah Send?

There are some ahadeeth of the Prophet which say that God sent thousands of prophets and messengers. Imam Ahmad Ibn Hibban and others reported a hadeeth on the authority of Abu Tharr, in which he asked the Prophet, "How many messengers did Allah send?" "Three hundred and fifteen," the Prophet replied.

"How many prophets?" Abu Tharr asked once again.

"One hundred and twenty four thousand," the Prophet answered.

As this hadeeth indicates, prophets and messengers appeared over thousands of years in many nations. However, the Qur'an didn't



*The Tomb of Prophet Yahya (John) in the Omayyad Mosque in Damascus, Syria. Pope Benedict visited this shrine when he toured Syria in 2006.*

tell us about all their names. Instead, Allah told us the names of only twenty five of His prophets and messengers. Allah says in Surat-un-Nisaa':

"And We told you about some messen-

﴿وَرُسُلًا قَدْ قَصَصْنَاهُمْ عَلَيْكَ مِنْ قَبْلُ وَرُسُلًا لَمْ

نَقْصُصْهُمْ عَلَيْكَ﴾ النساء: ١٦٤

gers, while We did not tell you about others." [4:164]

Muslims, therefore, must believe in and respect all the prophets that are mentioned in Al-Qur'an. They should also believe that Allah sent many other prophets and messengers whose names are not known. Allah stated in Surat-ul-Baqarah:

﴿ءَاَمَنَ الرَّسُولُ بِمَا أُنْزِلَ إِلَيْهِ مِنْ رَبِّهِ وَالْمُؤْمِنُونَ

كُلٌّ ءَاَمَنَ بِاللَّهِ وَمَلَكِهِ وَكُتُبِهِ وَرُسُلِهِ لَا نُفَرِّقُ بَيْنَ

أَحَدٍ مِنْ رُسُلِهِ وَقَالُوا سَمِعْنَا وَأَطَعْنَا غُفْرَانَكَ

رَبَّنَا وَإِلَيْكَ الْمَصِيرُ﴾ البقرة: ٢٨٥

"The Messenger (Muhammad) believed in what has been revealed to him from his Lord, as do the men of faith. Each one (of them) believes in Allah, His angels, His books, and His messengers. [They say,] "We make no distinction [in belief] between one and another of His Messengers." (2: 285).

Christians and Jews also believe in most of the prophets mentioned in the Qur'an, along with their stories and miracles. However, one can find some differences

between the facts and prophetic stories presented in the Qur'an, and those mentioned in other scriptures. Provided in the table below are the 25 mentioned in the Qur'an, and their English names from the Bible:

**Table**  
Names of the Prophets and Messengers  
Mentioned in Al-Qur'an

	Qur'anic Name	Biblical Name
1	Adam	Adam
2	Idrees	Enoch
3	Nuh	Noah
4	Hud	-----
5	Salih	-----
6	Ibraheem	Abraham
7	Isma'eel	Ishmael
8	Ishaq	Isaac
9	Lut	Lot
10	Ya'qoob	Jacob
11	Yousuf	Joseph
12	Shu'ayb	-----
13	Ayyoob	Job
14	Musa	Moses
15	Haroon	Aaron
16	Thul-kifl	Ezekiel
17	Dawood	David
18	Suleyman	Solomon
19	Ilyas	Elias
20	Al-Yasa'	Elisha
21	Yunus	Jonah
22	Zakariyya	Zachariah
23	Yahya	John
24	'Isa	Jesus
25	Muhammad	-----

As you can see in the table, most of the prophets in the Qur'an are recognized by the Bible. Some of the prophets have the same name in both the Qur'an and the Bible, like Prophet Adam عليه السلام. However, most prophets have different names. For example, Prophet Suleyman عليه السلام is known as Prophet Solomon in the Bible. Prophet Yunus عليه السلام is known as Prophet Jonah in the Bible. There are some prophets that Muslims believe in, but they are not mentioned in the Christian Bible. These prophets are Muhammad ﷺ, Shu'ayb عليه السلام, Salih عليه السلام and Hud عليه السلام. These prophets are the only ones who spoke the Arabic language among all those who were mentioned in the Qur'an.

## Fast Facts



Allah mentioned the names of 18 prophets in one surah, Surat-ul-An'aam, which is number 6 in the Qur'an. You can find them in ayaat 83-86 of that surah. The rest of the prophets' names were mentioned in other suwar.



## Prophets Mentioned in the Sunnah

Allah says in Surat Ghafir:

﴿وَلَقَدْ أَرْسَلْنَا رُسُلًا مِّن قَبْلِكَ مِنْهُمْ مَّن قَصَصْنَا

عَلَيْكَ وَمِنْهُمْ مَّن لَّمْ نَقْصُصْ عَلَيْكَ﴾ غافر: ٧٨

"And certainly We sent messengers before you: there are some of them that We have mentioned to you and there are others whom We have not mentioned to you..." [40:78]

Therefore, in addition to the prophets who are mentioned in the Qur'an, there are other prophets mentioned in the Sunnah. Among these prophets are:

1. Yousha', or Joshua, whom Prophet Muhammad mentioned as a prophet in a hadeeth reported in Saheeh Muslim.
2. Shayth, or Seth, whom Prophet Muhammad mentioned as a prophet in a hadeeth that is reported by Imam Ibn Hibban.

## Prophet Muhammad: The Final Prophet and Messenger

All prophets and messengers were sent by God, and their messages were equally true. But, the scope of their missions varied. The messengers before Prophet Muhammad were each given teachings limited to their respective nations, or for certain times. During those times, nations were largely isolated from each other. In many cases, they were fighting against each other for many years.

Allah wanted humanity to live in peace as one nation. For this purpose, God sent Prophet Muhammad to all mankind. Allah entrusted him to deliver His teachings to the whole world, and for eternity. This teaching is Islam. Prophet Muhammad's mission was to confirm and finalize the basic teachings of Islam, that other prophets had taught. He also came with many additional teachings and guidance, for the good of mankind.

Islam, as we know it now, is a comprehensive and perfect way of life. If people follow this guidance, they will live happy in this life and win the wonderful Paradise in the afterlife.

Prophet Muhammad, then, is the final Prophet and Messenger. He brought us the final message from God, the Qur'an. No true prophet or messenger will come after Prophet

## Possible Prophets

Also, there are other personalities who were possibly prophets, according to some of the Muslim scholars. Among those are the following people:

1. Imran, the father of Maryam whose name is given to a surah in the Qur'an.
2. Luqman, the wise man whose name also is given to a surah in the Qur'an.
3. Al-Khidr is not mentioned by name in Al-Qur'an, but his story with Prophet Musa is mentioned in Surat-ul-Kahf. Prophet Muhammad pointed out his name, mentioned in a hadeeth reported by Imam Al-Bukhari.
- 4-7. Danyal (Daniel), Ishaia (Isaiah), Armya (Jeremiah) are mentioned by Imam Ibn Katheer in his book as prophets.
8. Prophet Muhammad was asked also about Thul-Qarnayn whose story is mentioned in Surat-ul-Kahf, who was a great and pious king. The Prophet said about him, "I don't know if he was a prophet or not." This hadeeth was reported by Al-Hakim in his book Al-Mustadrak.

Muhammad, and no true divine book will come after Al-Qur'an. Allah says in Al-Qur'an:

﴿مَا كَانَ مُحَمَّدٌ أَبَا أَحَدٍ مِّن رِّجَالِكُمْ وَلَٰكِن رَّسُولَ اللَّهِ وَخَاتَمَ النَّبِيِّينَ ۚ وَكَانَ اللَّهُ بِكُلِّ شَيْءٍ عَلِيمًا﴾ الأحزاب: ٤٠

"Muhammad is not the father of any of your men, but he is the Messenger of Allah and the last of the prophets; and Allah is knowledgeable of all things." [33:40]

Al-Qur'an's message replaces all past holy books and scriptures that were changed or lost over time. Anyone who claims to be a Prophet after Prophet Muhammad is a false Prophet. And any claimed divine message after the Qur'an is not from God.

It is unfortunate that a few groups claim to be Muslims, but they believe in a prophet after Prophet Muhammad. These groups cannot be Muslim, because Islam confirms that Prophet Muhammad is the last and the seal of all prophets and messengers. Al-Qur'an, too, is the final message from God.

## CHAPTER REVIEW

### Projects and Activities

1. Create a poster that includes the names of the prophets mentioned in the Qur'an, and the ayaat that include their names.
2. Write a 700-word profile of one of the prophets, that includes the following information:
  - a. His name and the names of his parents.
  - b. Date and place of birth.
  - c. The people that he was sent to.
  - d. The book he was given.
  - e. The miracles, if any.
  - f. How his people received his message.
  - g. The conclusion of his mission.
  - h. Time and place of his death.
  - i. Major lessons one can learn from his life story.



### Stretch Your Mind

Which prophets are not mentioned in the New and Old Testaments?



### Study Questions

- 1 What does Islam teach about Prophets? Quote two verses from the Qur'an.
- 2 How many prophets are mentioned in the Holy Qur'an?
- 3 Why did Allah choose these individuals?
- 4 What were the two ways in which these ordinary men learned that they were prophets?
- 5 What are some of the characteristics of a prophet?
- 6 What are the Biblical names for Prophets Yunus, Dawood, Yahya, and Thul-Kifl, according to Christians?
- 7 Give the names of five possible prophets who were not mentioned in the Qur'an.
- 8 Write at least three significant qualities of Prophet Muhammad ﷺ?



# UNIT

## A

### CHAPTER

#### TWO

## Prophets Are the Best of Mankind

### CHAPTER OBJECTIVES

- 1 Identify the main message of all prophets.
- 2 Learn about the main characteristics of prophets.
- 3 Learn about some of the miracles our prophets brought with them.
- 4 Learn how we should respect our prophets.

### All Prophets Were Human Beings

Although they were very noble and pious role models, prophets and messengers were all human beings. They were neither divine, nor angels or jinn. Every prophet was born to a mother and a father, except Prophet Isa عليه السلام, who had no father and Adam عليه السلام who had neither mother nor father. Some Prophets had brothers like Prophet Musa عليه السلام, whose brother was Prophet Haroon عليه السلام. Also, Isma'eel and Is'haq were both brothers and prophets.

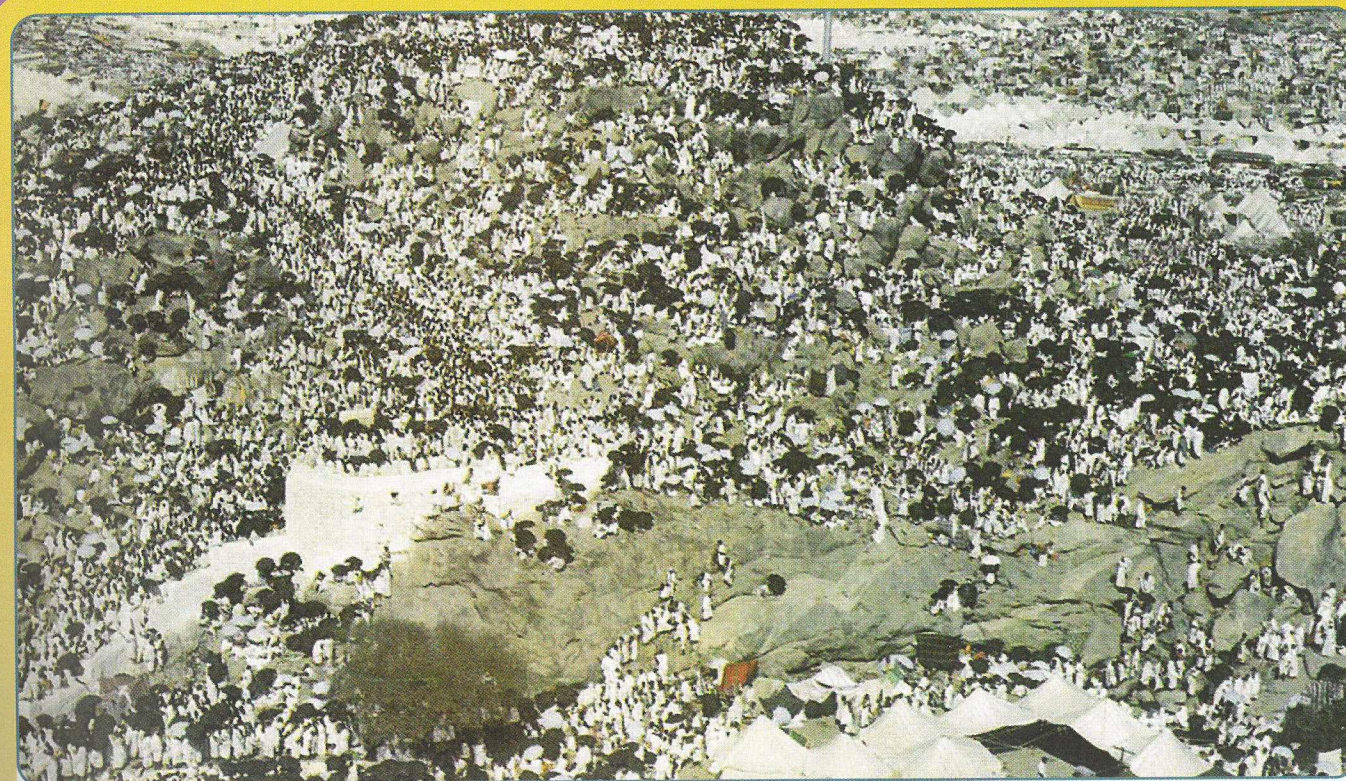
Other Prophets got married and had children, like Prophets Adam, Nuh, Ibraheem, Lut, Ya'qoob, Is'haq, Isma'eel, Yousuf, Musa, Dawood, Suleyman, Zakariyya, Muhammad ﷺ and others.

Although the prophets and messengers were ordinary men, Allah سبحانه وتعالى gave them special qualities. They all had high

morals, manners, and attitudes. They were faithful, honest, patient, tolerant, and honorable. None of them had committed major sins, shameful actions, or crimes.

Some of the prophets had a long life span. Prophet Nuh عليه السلام lived for nine hundred and fifty years, and Prophet Ibraheem عليه السلام lived more than two hundred years! Other prophets died much younger than that, such as Prophet Muhammad ﷺ. He became a prophet at the age of forty, and he died at the age of sixty three.

Prophet Isa عليه السلام was the only prophet who is yet to die. Instead, Allah سبحانه وتعالى has raised him to Heaven and will bring him back to Earth before the Day of Judgment. He will confirm Islam as the true and final religion of God. He will also prevail over all evil people and powers.



### All Prophets Were Men

Being a prophet or a messenger was not an easy task. It was a very serious responsibility, which required a great deal of perseverance and strength. Some prophets got killed, like Prophets Zakariyya (Zachariah) and Yahya (John), who was Prophet Isa's cousin. Others were put in prison for years, like Prophet Yousuf (Joseph), the son of Prophet Ya'qoob (Jacob). Almost all prophets were persecuted and harassed, like Nuh (Noah), Ibraheem (Abraham), Younus (Jonah), Musa (Moses), Isa (Jesus), Muhammad, and others. Therefore, Allah in His glorious wisdom, carefully selected those who would be most suited to serve as prophets. Allah also stated that he chose only men to be prophets and messengers.

﴿وَمَا أَرْسَلْنَا مِنْ قَبْلِكَ إِلَّا رِجَالًا نُوْحِيْ اِلَيْهِمْ مِنْ اٰهْلِ الْقُرَىٰ﴾  
يوسف: ١٠٩

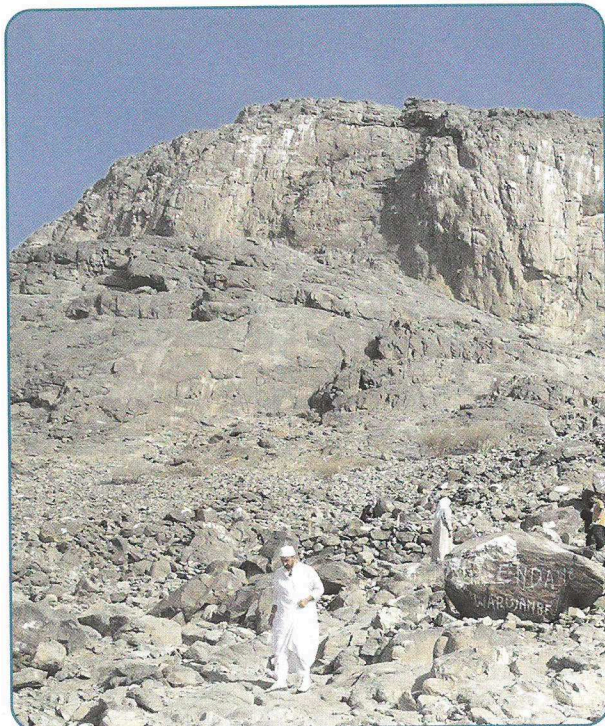
"And We have not sent before you but men from (among) the people of the towns, to whom We sent revelations." [12:109]

However, Allah chose certain faithful women to play major historical roles. Asiah, the wife of Phir'oun, Maryam (Mary) and her mother, Khadeejah, and many others were exceptional role models. These women were not prophets, but they were great women of faith.

### How Did They Become Prophets?

There are two ways in which Allah سبحانه وتعالى reached out to his prophets. The first way was by sending an angel to them. For example, Prophet Muhammad received the message of prophethood from the Angel Jibreel while he was in the Cave of Hira'a'. In other times, Allah سبحانه وتعالى spoke directly to his chosen prophets. For example, Prophet Musa went to a desert valley, where Allah سبحانه وتعالى spoke to him directly. And this is why he is called in Islam "كَلِمُ اللّٰهِ" Kaleem-ullah," or the one to whom Allah spoke.



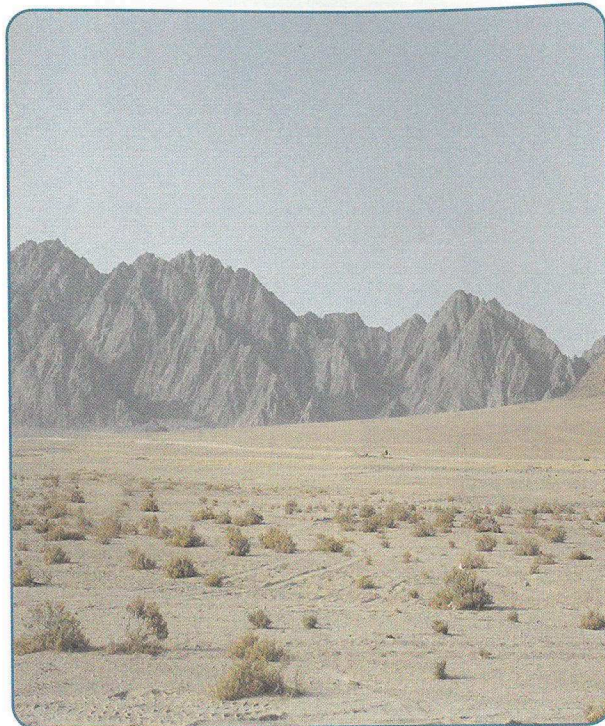


*Jabal-un-Noor, or the Mount of Light near Makkah. On top of which is the Cave of Hira'a, where Prophet Muhammad first received the revelation of the Qur'an, through Angel Jibreel, or Gabriel.*

All the prophets received the same basic message: Allah is the only true Creator of the universe, thus the only One worthy of complete obedience and worship. Adam, Nuh, Ibraheem, Musa, Isa, Muhammad, and all the prophets brought their people this same message. None of them claimed to be divine or God-like in any way, and they all conveyed and taught a pure belief in the one true God.

## Characteristics of the Prophets

Allah chose his prophets and messengers and provided them with great moral and spiritual characteristics. Prophets are the best humans who lived on Earth. Below are some of the beautiful characteristics our great prophets had:



*The Sinai Desert, where Prophet Musa received revelation from Allah that he had become a prophet.*

**1. The Prophets of Allah Were the Best in Their Communities.** They were the most moral and the most intelligent among their peoples. This was necessary, because the life of every prophet served as a model for his followers and all mankind. His personality had to be pleasant in order to attract people towards his message, rather than drive them away.

﴿وَإِنَّكَ لَعَلَىٰ خُلُقٍ عَظِيمٍ ۝٤﴾ القلم: ٤

"And most surely you are of a great moral character." [68:4]

**2. They Usually Came from Well-Known and Highly Respected Families.** Most prophets came from great lineage. Prophets Isma'eel, Is'haq, Musa, Haroon, Ya'qoob and Yousuf, were the offspring of Prophet Ibraheem, the Father of Prophets. Prophet Muhammad was the descendent of Prophet Isma'eel. Isma'eel was also the son of Prophet Ibraheem عليه السلام .

**3. Prophets Had to Possess Strong Personalities.** They had to be strong and resilient in the face of challenges and difficulties. Many prophets had to face fierce and evil enemies.

**4. Prophets Had to Be Patient and Tolerant.** Each prophet had to bring the message of Tawheed to his people and teach this message for many years. Many prophets, including Prophet Muhammad ﷺ were persecuted and ridiculed for teaching Allah's message. Others, like Nuh, taught for hundreds of years, but were joined by only few followers. In the case of Prophet Yunus, however, more than one hundred thousand people accepted his message.

## Prophets and Miracles

Allah سبحانه وتعالى provided some of his prophets with miracles. These miracles usually had one of three purposes:

- To serve as a proof of Allah's greatness and power. For example, Allah caused the great flood in the time of Prophet Nuh, that destroyed all of the evil disbelievers. He also destroyed the evil people in the time of Prophets Hud and Salih.

- To help them during times of danger or trouble. For example, Prophet Ibraheem was saved from the huge fire that was lit to burn him. He was thrown in a huge fire, but he was never burnt. Also, Prophet Musa and his followers were saved from Phir'oun and his army when Allah split the sea for Musa, as you learned in your elementary years.

- To prove that the prophet is a true prophet. For example, Prophet Isa could heal the sick and raise the dead. Also Prophet Muhammad brought the Qur'an and challenged the eloquent Arabs to write one verse like it, but they failed. Allah also split the moon, as the pagans of Makkah were watch-

ing, to prove that Prophet Muhammad was a true prophet. These miracles made many people follow Prophets Isa and Muhammad, peace be upon them.

Allah knew that people would be most impressed by miracles, especially those miracles that are relevant to their lives and situations. For example, Prophet Musa's contemporaries in Egypt were skillful at magic. So his major miracle was to defeat the best magicians of the day in Egypt. Jesus' contemporaries in Palestine, under the Roman Empire, were recognized as skillful physicians. Therefore, his miracles, included raising the dead and curing incurable diseases.

The Arabs, the contemporaries of Prophet Muhammed, were known for their eloquence and magnificent poetry. So Prophet Muhammad's major miracle was Al-Qur'an. The people of Arabia were impressed by the eloquence of Al-Qur'an and Arab poets and orators could not make even a few verses like it. Later, all Arabia became a Muslim nation. Al-Qur'an is the best miracle Allah gave to Prophet Muhammad ﷺ. No human being could write even one verse like its beautiful verses.

## Respecting our Prophets

Allah's prophets deserve all our love, respect and appreciation. Muslims appreciate the many sacrifices that these prophets made. We must be grateful that they worked so hard and even sacrificed their lives to bring Allah's message to mankind. However, beside the emotions we hold for them in our hearts, Allah requires us to fulfill our duties toward these great role models. The following are some important actions we must do concerning our prophets:

1. Believe in all of the true prophets, and admire them. This is the first thing a Muslim must do toward these great human beings.



2. The best way to respect prophets and messengers is to follow their guidance and manners. If you want to give great respect to Prophet Muhammad, for example, you must obey him, and try to follow his manners and Sunnah.

3. When Muslims mention the name of Prophet Muhammad or any other prophet, they make a prayer for them out of respect. This is a prayer asking God to grant the Prophet His peace and blessings. In Arabic, we say:

صلى الله عليه وسلم

4. Muslims do not portray, or draw pictures or images of the prophets. In addition, Muslims do not impersonate the characters of

the prophets in movies or plays. It is prohibited in Islam for actors to portray prophets in movies or plays. Muslims believe that portraying a prophet of God in a movie is disrespectful. No matter how good an artist or an actor is, it would be impossible to accurately portray the Prophet's greatness. Also, Muslims do not want to create images of prophets, as other groups have done, because that could lead to idolizing those images. For example, although the famous movie "The Message" reenacted the life story of Prophet Muhammad, no actor played the person of Prophet Muhammad ﷺ. And even in the animated movie "Muhammad: The Last Messenger", no image of the Prophet is ever drawn.

### Related Text

سورة البقرة

Surat-ul-Baqarah: Ayah 285

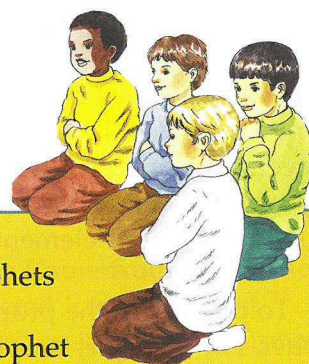
﴿عَمَّا أَمَرَ الرَّسُولُ يَمَّا أَنْزَلَ إِلَيْهِ مِنْ رَبِّهِ وَالْمُؤْمِنُونَ كُلٌّ آمَنَ بِاللَّهِ وَمَلَكَيْهِ وَكُتُبِهِ وَرُسُلِهِ لَا نُفَرِّقُ بَيْنَ أَحَدٍ مِنْ رُسُلِهِ وَقَالُوا سَمِعْنَا وَأَطَعْنَا غُفْرَانَكَ رَبَّنَا وَإِلَيْكَ الْمَصِيرُ﴾ سورة البقرة ٢٨٥

The messenger believes in what has been revealed to him from his Lord, and (so do) the believers; they all believe in Allah and His angels and His books and His messengers; We make no difference between any of His messengers; and they say: We hear and obey, our Lord! Thy forgiveness (do we crave), and to Thee is the eventual course. [2:285]



### FAITH IN ACTION

- ★ Always show love and respect for all the prophets of Allah.
- ★ Always follow the Sunnah and manners of Prophet Muhammad.
- ★ Say "Salla-Allahu Alayhi wa Sallam," or "Alayhis-Salam," whenever you hear or say the name of Prophet Muhammad, or other prophets.



## CHAPTER REVIEW

### Projects and Activities

Create a poster that portrays the many miracles which Allah supported his prophets and messengers with. Relate each miracle to the correct prophet.



### Stretch Your Mind

Why do you think Allah chose only humans, not angels, for example, to be prophets and messengers?



### Study Questions

- 1 Explain how prophets were ordinary men.
- 2 Who is the prophet that didn't die? What will happen to him?
- 3 Why did Allah سبحانه وتعالى provide some of his prophets with miracles?
- 4 List three ways that reflect how Muslims show respect to the prophets.



# UNIT A CHAPTER THREE

## The Messengers and Their Message

### CHAPTER OBJECTIVES

- 1 Realize that all messengers came with the same basic message about the belief in the One True God.
- 2 Understand the difference between a prophet and a messenger.
- 3 Identify the main holy books that Allah sent to mankind.
- 4 Recognize that Al-Qur'an is the final holy book sent to mankind.

### VOCABULARY

Suhuf Ibraheem صُحُفْ إِبْرَاهِيمَ

Tawrah تَوْرَاهُ

Injeel إِنْجِيلُ

Prophets and messengers were great individuals, selected by Allah, to show people the straight path. They came from different places and spoke different languages, but they all conveyed the same message, Islam, which means to submit to the One True God. They all focused on the most important concept of Islam, Tawheed. Some of them were anbiyaa', or prophets; others were messengers, or rusul. They also taught people the proper way to worship Allah, and how to be righteous, and lead positive and happy lives.

### Many Prophets, One Message

Allah's message has been the same message to all prophets, from the first Prophet Adam آدم, to the last and final Prophet Muhammad ﷺ. God gave them all His guidance, and He charged them with the task of conveying His guidance to various nations. The prophet's mission was therefore to inspire people to believe in the One True God, obey Him, enjoin good deeds, and avoid evil ones.

In Surat-ul-A'raaf, Allah tells us that although he sent different prophets to different peoples in different times, they all had the same message: "God is one, and He is the only one to worship."

### Words of Wisdom

Al-Qur'an

### Many Prophets, One Message

﴿لَقَدْ أَرْسَلْنَا نُوحًا إِلَىٰ قَوْمِهِ فَقَالَ يَتَقَوَّمُ اعْبُدُوا اللَّهَ مَا لَكُم مِّنْ إِلَهِ غَيْرُهُ ۖ إِنِّي أَخَافُ عَلَيْكُمْ عَذَابَ يَوْمٍ عَظِيمٍ﴾

[7:59] We sent Nuh to his people. He said: "O my people! Worship Allah; you have no other god but Him."

﴿وَالِإِلَىٰ عَادِ أَخَاهُمْ هُودًا قَالَ يَتَقَوَّمُ اعْبُدُوا اللَّهَ مَا لَكُم مِّنْ إِلَهِ غَيْرُهُ ۖ أَفَلَا تَتَّقُونَ﴾

[7:65] To the people of Aad, (We sent) Hud, one of their (own) brethren: he said: "O my people! Worship Allah; you have no other God but Him."

﴿وَإِلَىٰ ثَمُودَ أَخَاهُمْ صَالِحًا قَالَ يَتَقَوَّمُ اعْبُدُوا اللَّهَ مَا لَكُم مِّنْ إِلَهِ غَيْرُهُ ۖ﴾

[7:73] To the people of Thamood (We sent) Salih, one of their own brethren: he said: "O my people! Worship Allah; you have no other god but Him."

﴿وَإِلَىٰ مَدْيَنَ أَخَاهُمْ شُعَيْبًا قَالَ يَتَقَوَّمُ اعْبُدُوا اللَّهَ مَا لَكُم مِّنْ إِلَهِ غَيْرُهُ ۖ﴾

[7:85] To the people of Madyan, We sent Shu'ayb, one of their own brethren: he said: "O my people! Worship Allah; you have no other god but Him."

﴿وَمَا أَرْسَلْنَا مِن قَبْلِكَ مِن رَّسُولٍ إِلَّا نُوحِي إِلَيْهِ أَنَّهُ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا أَنَا فَاعْبُدُونِ﴾

[21: 28] Not a messenger did We send before thee without this inspiration sent by Us to him: that there is no God but I; therefore worship and serve Me."



## 99 Names of Allah



### Al-Wahid

Allah is Al-Wahid الواحد; this name was mentioned in the Qur'an six times. Allah says in Surat Ar-Ra'd:

﴿قُلِ اللَّهُ خَلِقُ كُلِّ شَيْءٍ وَهُوَ الْوَاحِدُ الْقَهَّارُ﴾ (١٦)

"Say: Allah is the Creator of all things: He is the One, the Supreme and Irresistible." [13:16]

Allah is also Al-Ahad الأحد. This name is mentioned one time in the Qur'an. Allah says in Surat-ul-Ikhlaas,

﴿قُلْ هُوَ اللَّهُ أَحَدٌ ۝ اللَّهُ الصَّمَدُ ۝ لَمْ يَكُنْ لَهُ كُفُوًا أَحَدٌ﴾ (١)  
﴿يَكُنْ لَهُ كُفُوًا أَحَدٌ﴾ (٤) سورة الإخلاص

[112:1] Say: He is Allah, the One and Only; [112:2] Allah, the Eternal, Absolute; [112:3] He begetteth not, nor is He begotten; [112:4] And there is none like unto Him.

## The Difference between a Prophet and a Messenger

According to the Hadeeth narrated by Abu Tharr رضي الله عنه, you learned earlier that Allah sent one hundred and twenty four thousand Prophets; only three hundred and fifteen of them were messengers. So, what is the difference between a prophet and a messenger?

Prophets were very pious individuals, and great role models to their families and societies. Allah rewarded those righteous people by selecting them as prophets. The word nabi, or prophet, means in Arabic "the person who receives the news from Allah." Therefore, God used to inspire and teach the prophets His religion through Angel Jibreel. He always guided them to become very close to Him.

A *Rasool*, or a messenger, is a prophet who was given an additional mission. He was assigned to deliver and convey Allah's message to the people of his nation or all people of his time. He was then ordered to guide a large number of people to worshipping God and practicing Islam. Often the message of a rasool is a little more updated than that of the messenger sent before him. Muslim scholars believe that a new messenger is sent with the same basic faith message, in addition to new divine laws and guidance. Such laws and guidance are usually designed to fit the society and time of the messenger.

It is important to notice that messengers were given the message of Allah in two main formats:

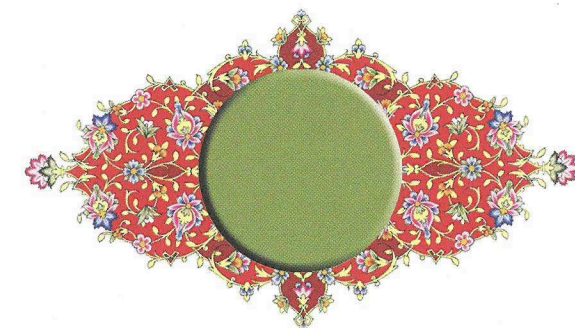
- They were given Allah's message in the form of a book, like Musa, Isa, and Muhammad ﷺ.
- They were inspired with the message verbally, and they also conveyed it to their people in a verbal manner, like Prophets Nuh, Isma'eel, Suleyman, and most of the rest of the messengers.

In conclusion, messengers are all prophets, but not every prophet is a messenger. Additionally, the prophets were ordered to follow the messenger of their time, or the latest message of the messenger who came near their time.

Of the many prophets Allah سبحانه وتعالى sent, only 25 are mentioned in the Qur'an. All of them were messengers, except Prophet Adam. He lived alone on Earth, with his small family. Therefore, he was not ordered to convey Allah's message outside of his family. All the other prophets mentioned in the Qur'an, from Nuh to Muhammad, were *rusul*, or messengers.

Table:  
The Difference Between Prophets and Messengers

Characteristics	Prophets	Messengers
Great Men	*	*
Human Beings	*	*
Given Divine Messages	*	*
Must Deliver the Message to Many Other People		*
Perhaps Given Books		*





## Correction

There is a widespread belief that the messengers are only those who received books from God. That is not true. There are messengers who did not receive books. Allah said in the Qur'an that Prophets Isma'eel, Lut, Yousuf, Ilyas, Younus, Salih, Hud, and others are rusul, or messengers, although they did not receive books. Look at the following ayaat:

﴿وَاذْكُرْ فِي الْكِتَابِ إِسْمَاعِيلَ إِنَّهُ كَانَ صَادِقَ الْوَعْدِ وَكَانَ رَسُولًا نَبِيًّا ٥٤﴾

سورة مريم ٥٤

And mention Isma'eel in the Book; surely he was truthful in (his) promise, and he was a messenger, a prophet. [19:54]

﴿وَلِإِنِّ إِيَّاسَ لَمِنَ الْمُرْسَلِينَ ١٢٣﴾ سورة الصافات ١٢٣

And Ilyas was most surely one of the messengers. [37:123]

﴿وَلِإِنِّ لُوطًا لَمِنَ الْمُرْسَلِينَ ١٣٣﴾ سورة الصافات ١٣٣

And Lut was most surely one of the messengers. [37:133]

﴿وَلِإِنِّ يُونُسَ لَمِنَ الْمُرْسَلِينَ ١٣٩﴾ سورة الصافات ١٣٩

And Younus was most surely one of the messengers. [37:139]



## The Role of a Messenger

The role of a messenger is clear in the Qur'an: convey the message of Allah to His people. Allah says in Surat Al-Imran:

﴿مَا عَلَى الرَّسُولِ إِلَّا أَلْبَلَّغُ ٩٩﴾ المائدة: ٩٩

"The Messenger's duty is but to proclaim (the Message)." [3:81]

Allah also says in Surat-ul-Ma'idah:

﴿يَا أَيُّهَا الرَّسُولُ بَلِّغْ مَا أُنْزِلَ إِلَيْكَ مِنْ رَبِّكَ وَإِنْ لَمْ تَفْعَلْ فَمَا بَلَغْتَ رِسَالَتَهُ وَاللَّهُ يَعْصِمُكَ مِنَ النَّاسِ إِنَّ اللَّهَ لَا يَهْدِي الْقَوْمَ الْكَافِرِينَ ٦٧﴾ المائدة: ٦٧

"O Apostle! Proclaim the (Message) which has been sent to you from your Lord. If you do not, you will not have fulfilled (your obligation) and proclaimed His Message." [5:67].

As you learned earlier, messengers were given the responsibility of teaching their people Islam. Each messenger was only responsible for conveying Allah's message to His people. He was not responsible for bringing the message to people outside of his area, unless Allah ordered him to do so. However, this doesn't apply to Prophet Muhammad. He was sent as a messenger and guide for his people, and for all mankind. Allah says to Prophet Muhammad in Surat Saba':

﴿وَمَا أَرْسَلْنَاكَ إِلَّا كَافَّةً لِّلنَّاسِ بَشِيرًا وَنَذِيرًا وَلَئِنَّ أَكْثَرَ النَّاسِ لَا يَعْلَمُونَ ٢٨﴾ سبأ: ٢٨

"We have not sent you but as a universal (Messenger) to men, giving them glad tidings, and warning them (against sin), but most people do not understand." [34:28].

During his 23 years as messenger, Prophet Muhammad taught the people of Arabia Islam, and all of Arabia became a Muslim nation. Before he died, he sent his ambassadors with messages to the kings of Persia, the Roman Empire, Egypt, and other nations outside of Arabia, inviting them to Islam. These nations and others accepted Islam after the passing away of Prophet Muhammad ﷺ.

## The Messengers and Their Books

As mentioned earlier, only a small number of messengers were given messages or revelations in the form of a book. These books contained the message of Tawheed along with other teachings such as morality, worship, the Day of Judgment, and the belief in Heaven and Hell.

The messengers who received books are Prophet Ibraheem, Prophet Dawood, Prophet Musa, Prophet Isa, and Prophet Muhammad, peace be upon all of them. These messengers received special books that had special names. The table below displays the names of the messengers above and the books they received from Allah.

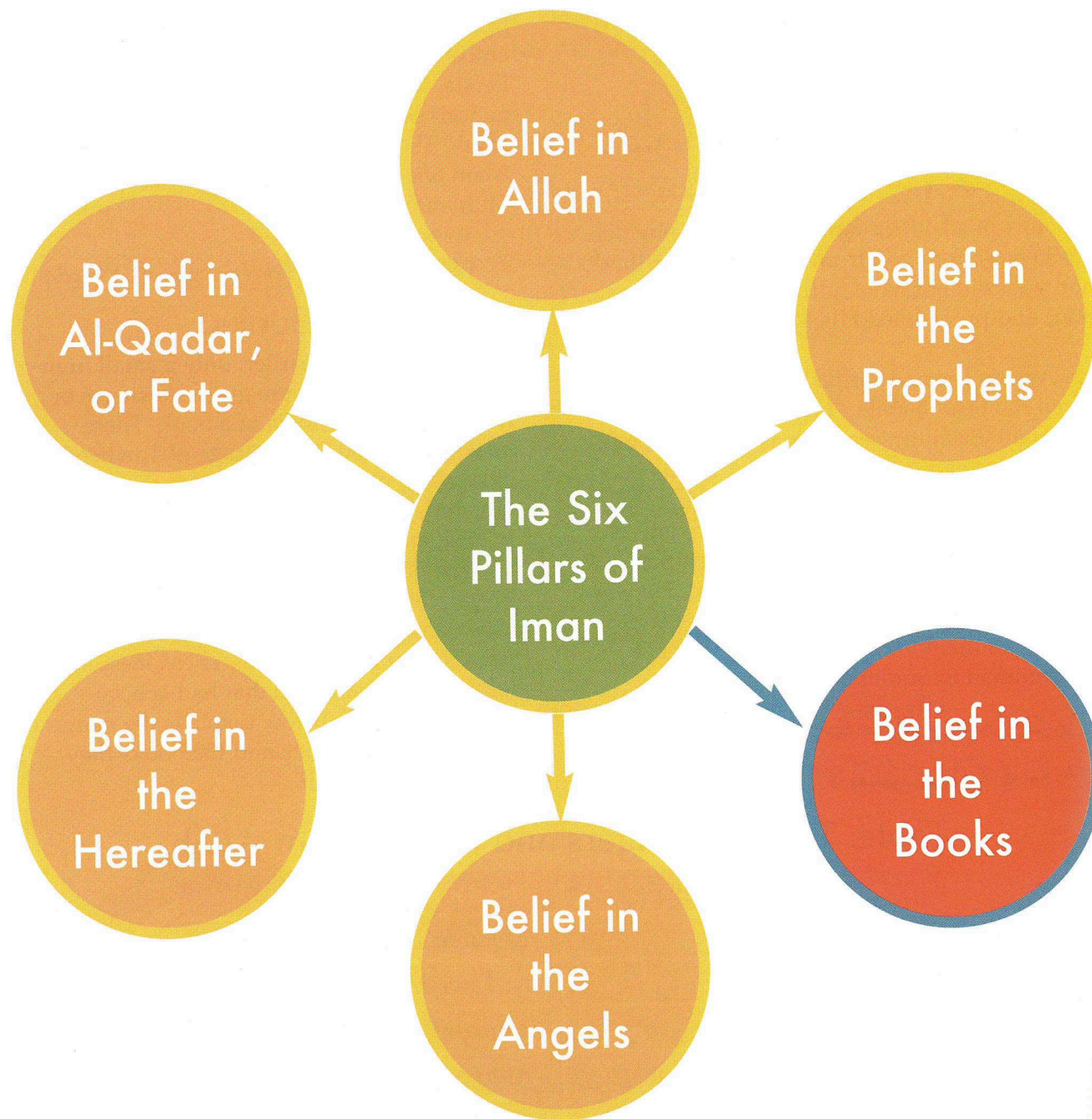
Table: The Messengers and the Books of Allah

Messenger	His Book
Prophet Ibraheem	Al-Suhuf صحف إبراهيم
Prophet Musa	At-Tawrah (Torah) التوراة
Prophet Dawood	Zaboor (Psalms) الزبور
Prophet Isa	Al-Injeel (Bible) الإنجيل
Prophet Muhammad	Al-Qur'an القرآن





Believing in Allah's books is one of the six pillars of iman, or faith.



## Previous Books were Lost and Changed

The very first messenger who received a message in the form of a written book was Prophet Ibraheem عليه السلام. He was given the first scripture, which is known as the As-Suhuf, or the Templates. The Suhuf contained the true message of Tawheed, along with other teachings of Allah سبحانه وتعالى. However, many years after he died, people began to corrupt the teachings described in the Suhuf. This caused the people to eventually forget the true message of Allah سبحانه وتعالى. The need for another written message or a book became urgent.

Prophet Musa was chosen to be the next messenger who received a book of Allah سبحانه وتعالى called At-Tawrah, or the Torah as a guide for his people. After his death, Prophet Dawood and Prophet Isa were chosen by God to be messengers. Similarly, their holy books, Zaboor and Injeel, were also corrupted and changed later.

The Qur'an stresses that the previous books were corrupted and changed. Therefore, the current Torah, and Gospel are not the same holy books that Allah first revealed to prophets Musa and Isa. Historians state that the Torah and the Bible were documented many years after the departures of Prophets Musa and Isa. Religious leaders and scripture writers have omitted and added important parts of the holy books. Allah says in Surat-ul-Ma'idah:

﴿يُحَرِّفُونَ الْكَلِمَ عَنْ مَوَاضِعِهِ وَنَسُوا حَظًّا مِمَّا ذُكِّرُوا بِهِ﴾ المائدة: ١٣

"They change the words from their (right) places and forget a good part of the message that was sent them." [5:13]

Allah explained in Surat-ul-Baqarah, that some people write things and claim that they are part of the holy book to gain some worldly benefit from the people that they deceive.

﴿فَوَيْلٌ لِلَّذِينَ يَكْتُمُونَ الْكِتَابَ بِأَيْدِيهِمْ ثُمَّ يَقُولُونَ هَذَا مِنْ عِنْدِ اللَّهِ لِيَشْتَرُوا بِهِ ثَمَنًا قَلِيلًا فَوَيْلٌ لَهُمْ مِمَّا كَتَبَتْ أَيْدِيهِمْ وَوَيْلٌ لَهُمْ مِمَّا يَكْسِبُونَ﴾ البقرة: ٧٩

"Then woe to those who write the Book with their own hands, and then say: "This is from Allah," to gain with it for miserable price!- Woe to them for what their hands do write, and for the gain they make thereby." [2:79]

## The Holy Books in Present Time

Some of the books that Allah revealed were lost, like the Suhuf of Ibraheem. However, the altered copies of the Psalms and the Bible are still available. Only the Holy Qur'an was preserved in its entirety, without being lost or changed. Allah says in Surat Saad about the Qur'an:

"We have, without doubt, sent down the

﴿إِنَّا نَحْنُ نَزَّلْنَا الذِّكْرَ وَإِنَّا لَهُ لَحَافِظُونَ﴾ الحجر: ٩

Message; and We will assuredly guard it (from loss or corruption)." [15:9]

### The Torah

The Torah is a Hebrew word which means "teaching," "instruction," or "law". It refers to the Five Books of Moses, also known as the Law of Moses. The Torah is now available in two forms:

- As a separate book in Hebrew, and translated into many languages.
- As the first five books of the Old Testament of the Christian Bible. The five books, their names and pronunciations in the original Hebrew, are as follows:

1. Genesis
2. Exodus
3. Leviticus
4. Numbers
5. Deuteronomy



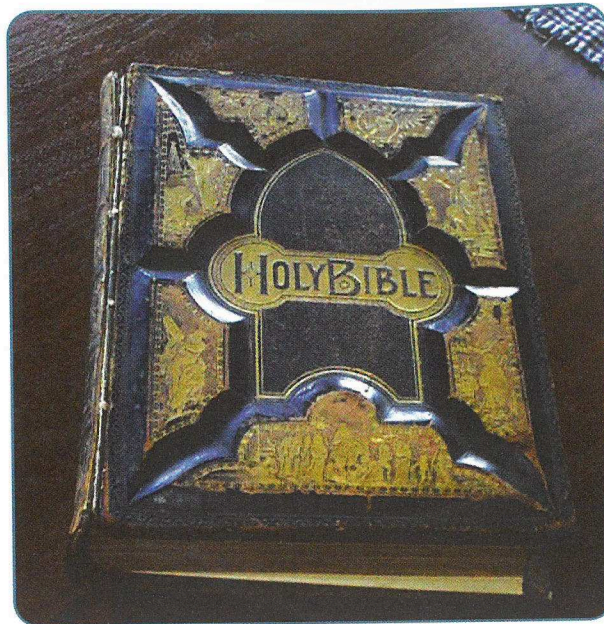
## The Bible

The Bible is recognized and used by the majority of Christians. It includes 66 books written by forty writers. It comes in two major parts:

1. The Old Testament, which is the Rabbinic Hebrew Scripture.
2. The New Testament, which is a collection of 27 books. It is a collection of stories, poems, wise sayings, doctrine, and letters that Christians regard as the word of God, through the abilities of inspired human authors. They were produced by Christians, and they were written primarily in Koine Greek in the early Christian period. Jesus is the central figure in the New Testament. The most important parts of the New Testament are the four Gospels:

- Gospel according to Matthew
- Gospel according to Mark
- Gospel according to Luke
- Gospel according to John

While the current Bible does not mention, or recognize, Prophet Muhammad by this name, the original Bible did include the news about the coming of Prophet Muhammad. Allah says in Surat-us-Saff,



وَإِذْ قَالَ عِيسَى ابْنُ مَرْيَمَ يَبْنِي إِسْرَءِيلَ إِنِّي رَسُولُ اللَّهِ  
إِلَيْكُمْ مُصَدِّقًا لِمَا بَيْنَ يَدَيَّ مِنَ النُّورَانِ وَمُبَشِّرًا بِرَسُولٍ  
يَأْتِي مِنْ بَعْدِي أَسْمُهُ أَحْمَدُ فَلَمَّا جَاءَهُمْ بِالْبَيِّنَاتِ  
قَالُوا هَذَا سِحْرٌ مُبِينٌ ﴿٦﴾ الصَّف: ٦

"And remember, Jesus, the son of Mary, said: "O Children of Israel! I am the messenger of Allah (sent) to you, confirming the Law (which came) before me, and giving Glad Tidings of a Messenger to come after me, whose name shall be Ahmad." But when he came to them with Clear Signs, they said, "this is indeed a sorcery!" [ 61:6]

## Fast Facts



### The Psalms of David

The Psalms of David are included in the Old Testament.

## Al-Qur'an: The Final Book of Allah to Mankind

The last and seal of all prophets was Muhammad ﷺ. Allah سبحانه وتعالى provided Prophet Muhammad ﷺ Al-Qur'an, the last and final book Allah sent to mankind. Al-Qur'an has never changed since its revelation, more than 1,400 years ago, and it is not going to change until the Day of Judgment. It was put in a written format during the lifetime of Prophet Muhammad. It remains in the exact same format and language as it was revealed by Allah سبحانه وتعالى. This is why there was no need for another prophet or messenger after Prophet Muhammad ﷺ.

According to Imam Ash-Shatibi, in his book Al-Muwafaqat:  
"The Qur'an is the whole of the Shari'ah (Allah's law), the support of religion, the

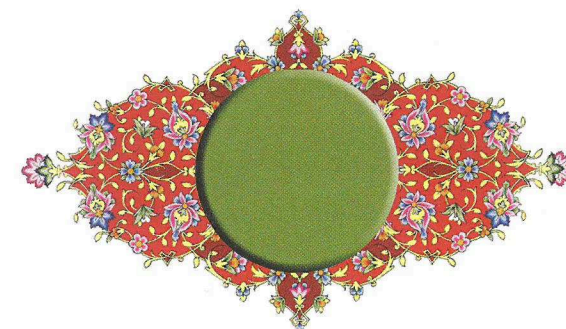
fount of wisdom, the sign of prophethood, and the light of the eyes and the heart. There is no way to Allah except through it, and there is no salvation by any other means than it. You must not hold to anything that contradicts it. None of this needs affirmation or deduction. Since this is the case, whoever wants complete knowledge of the Shari'ah and desires to perceive its aims and be joined to its adherents must necessarily take the Qur'an as his constant companion and make it his intimate, night and day, in both study and action. If he is able to do that, he will soon have students and find himself among the frontrunners, and in the first rank. He will not be able to do it without being helped in that by the Sunnah, which clarifies the Book." (vol. 3, p. 247)



Torah = The Old Testament

Bible = The New Testament

Al-Qur'an = The Final Testament





## The Miracle of the Qur'an



So brothers and sisters, to increase your iman  
Read the miracle, read the Qur'an.

Here's a fact for the ones who are keener  
92 surahs revealed in Makkah, 22 in Madinah.

Read it every day, and to read it be proud.

The word "Qur'an" means to read it aloud.

Read the book from the Lord of the Worlds

Over 6,000 verses and 77,000 words.

Read with respect, no disturbance, no laughter  
from Al Fatihah to An Naas, all 114 chapters.

And in it 14 times you need to prostrate

And say Allahhu Akbar, meaning Allah is great.

In this book, 25 prophets are mentioned by name,

Who came at different times, but their message was the same.

This miracle was revealed over a 23-year span,

Sent from Allah (swt), to an angel, and then to a man.

That man was Muhammed (saws), the best of creation,

And we are proud to be part of his nation.

He gave us a message, and that was Islam.

So read this miracle, read the Qur'an,

---Anonym---

## CHAPTER REVIEW

### Projects and Activities

1. Draw a map which shows where at least 20 prophets and messengers delivered their messages.
2. Write a poem about the prophets of Allah.



### Stretch Your Mind



Can we take the current Torah and Bible as holy books to be followed? Explain.

### Study Questions

1. What is the message that all prophets taught to their families and peoples?
2. What are the similarities of prophets and messengers?
3. What are the differences between a prophet and a messenger?
4. How many prophets and messengers were mentioned in the Qur'an altogether?
5. Did all messengers receive books from Allah? Explain.
6. Draw a table showing the names of the messengers who received books, and the names of these books.



# UNIT

## A

### CHAPTER

#### FOUR

## The Prophet King: The Story of Prophet Dawood

### CHAPTER OBJECTIVES

- 1 Learn the story of Prophet Dawood.
- 2 Appreciate the value of courage and heroism.
- 3 Appreciate the value of reciting the Qur'an according to Tajweed rules, and with a beautiful voice.
- 4 Learn how Prophet Dawood used to worship Allah.
- 5 Memorize the Hadeeth on how Prophet Dawood used to pray and fast.
- 6 Appreciate the value of justice.
- 7 Understand that rushing to judgment, and listening to one side of an argument and ignoring the other, leads to injustice.

Last year you learned the story of Prophet Musa and the children of Israel. In this and following chapters, you will learn the stories of Prophets Dawood and Suleyman. These two prophets were great prophets, who were sent to lead the Children of Israel to faith and submission to God.

Dawood, or David is one of the descendants of Prophet Ya'qoob (Jacob). He was born and raised in the city of Bethlehem in Palestine. Historians say that he was small-built, blue-eyed, pure-hearted and that he had the most beautiful voice in the world. His elderly father had thirteen boys, of whom Dawood was the youngest.

One day, the father chose three of his sons to join the army of his nation. The father instructed the youngest one, sixteen-year-old

Dawood, not to take part in the fighting. Instead, he ordered him to help the army in other ways, and to report to his father daily about what was happening on the war front.

### The Rise of a Hero

On the battleground, Dawood heard Taloot, or Saul, the Israelite's king, urging the Israelites to kill Jaloot (Goliath) and his soldiers at the beginning of the battle. Taloot said: "Whoever kills Jaloot, I will let him marry my daughter, and he will be my partner in the rule (of the kingdom)."

Dawood was a young man of exceptional courage and strength. History books narrate that he went to the king and offered that he

would be the one to kill Jaloot. Taloot, the army leader, was very impressed by Dawood's courage. He said: "I admire your courage, but you are no match for Jaloot, the mighty warrior. Let the strong men come forward." A few soldiers tried to kill Jaloot, but instead they were killed. David, however, had already decided, and was willing to meet the challenge. Proudly, he told the king that only the day before he had killed a lion which had threatened his father's sheep, and on another occasion, he had killed a bear. He asked King Taloot not to judge him by his young age, for he feared no man or wild beast. King Taloot, surprised by young Dawood's bravery, agreed: "My brave soldier, if you are willing, then may Allah guard you and grant you strength!"

King Taloot gave Dawood battle armor and a sword, but Dawood didn't feel comfortable wearing it. Dawood felt restricted in it, so he threw it away. With great courage, he rushed toward the enemy to kill Jaloot, or Goliath. When he was near Jaloot, Dawood picked up a rock, used his leather

sling, and aimed at Jaloot's forehead. Amazingly, he hit Goliath in the head and killed him instantly. Everyone was shocked to see what happened. How was it possible that a small youth could kill a powerful knight with a rock! Chaos spread among the enemies, as they witnessed their slain leader falling to the ground. They despaired and dispersed:

﴿ فَهَزَمُوهُمْ بِإِذْنِ اللَّهِ وَقَتَلَ دَاوُدُ جَالُوتَ  
وَأَتَتْهُ اللَّهُ الْمُلْكَ وَالْحِكْمَةَ  
وَعَلَّمَهُ مَا يَشَاءُ ﴾ البقرة: ٢٥١

Allah said in Surat-ul-Baqarah, "By Allah's will they routed them, and Dawood slew Goliath; and Allah gave him power and wisdom and taught him whatever (else He willed)." [2 : 251]

King Taloot fulfilled his promise, and Dawood became his son-in-law and his heir. Soon after, Allah blessed Dawood with Prophet Hud and kingship.

### Hadeeth Shareef

عن أبي هريرة رضي الله عنه قال: قال رسول الله :  
المؤمن القوي خير وأحب إلى الله من المؤمن الضعيف وفي كل خير . احرص على ما  
ينفعك واستعين بالله ولا تعجز ، وإن أصابك شئ فلا تقل : لو أني فعلت كذا كان  
كذا وكذا ، فإن لو تفتح عمل الشيطان ولكن قل : قدر الله وما شاء فعل  
رواه مسلم وابن ماجه وأحمد والبيهقي وغيرهم

"The strong believer is better and more beloved to Allah than the weak believer, but both have goodness in them. Take care of what is good for you, seek the help of Allah, and don't become idle. Whenever a calamity hits you don't say, "I wish I had done this then nothing would have harmed me. This [thought] makes Shaytan work [and affect your heart]. Instead, you should say, [this calamity] was willed by Allah, and whatever He wills He does." [Reported by Imas Muslim, Ibn Majah, Ahmad and Al-Bayhagi]



On the authority of Abu al-Abbaas Abdullah ibn Abbaas who said: "One day I was riding behind the Prophet ﷺ and he said to me, 'O young man, I shall teach you some words [of advice]. Be mindful of Allah and Allah will protect you. Be mindful of Allah, and you will find Him in front of you. If you ask, ask of Allah. If you seek help, seek help in Allah. Know that if the nations were to gather together to benefit you with something, they would not benefit you with anything except that which Allah has already recorded for you. If they gather to harm you by something, they would not be able to harm you by anything except what Allah has already recorded against you. The pens have been lifted and the pages have dried.'" (Tirmidhi – hasan sahih)

If one truly ponders this hadeeth, it is the prescription for removing fear – if one follows what the hadeeth commands. In addition,

## Mazameer Dawood (The Psalms)

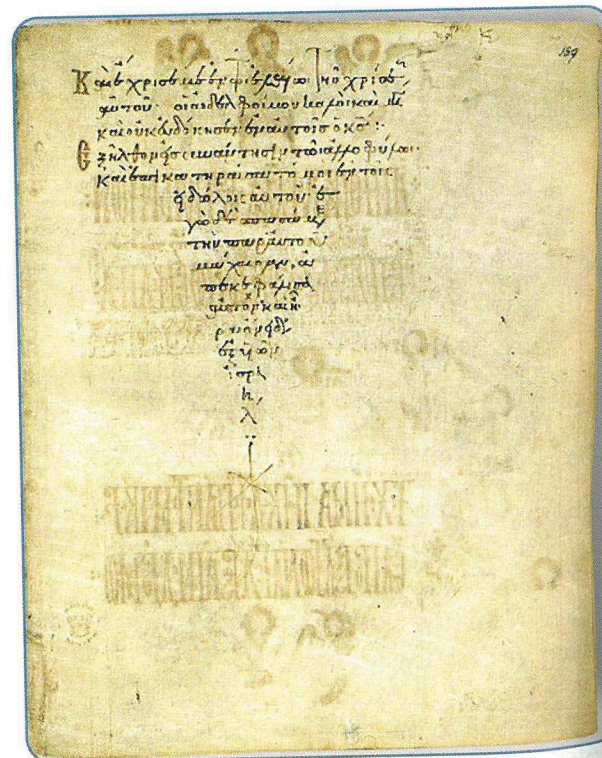
One time, Prophet Muhammad was entering the masjid at night. He was then delighted to hear the beautiful recitation of Abu Musa Al-Asha'ri. Abu Musa didn't notice the presence of the Prophet, who kept silent and enjoyed Abu Musa's beautiful recitation. The next morning, Rasoolullah saw Abu Musa and said:

"[You have no idea how much I was delighted ] when I was listening to your recitation last night. You are in fact blessed with a sweet voice like that of Dawood himself." Abu Musa felt so humbled and became very happy. He said to the Prophet, "Oh Rasoolullah, had I known that you were listening, I would have made my recitation even more beautiful." (Al-Bukhari)

Prophet Dawood was indeed given a beautiful voice, and Allah revealed the Zaboor, or the Psalms, to him. The Zaboor was a collection of great devotional prayers and divine wisdom. It was intended to be

tion, it is also important to note the following verse in the Qur'an: "Allah is the Protector and Guardian of those who believe. He brings them out from darkness into light." [2:257] With Allah as our Protector and Guardian, what is left to fear?

Thus, this passage should give the believer courage and strength. He knows that nothing will occur to him except what Allah has already recorded for him. He has no reason to fear anyone except Allah. He has no reason not to stand up for the truth, and for the religion of Allah. He has no reason even to have a fear of death as a result of his actions, because he knows that death will come to him at its appointed time, as decreed by Allah. (Excerpt from "Commentary on the Forty Hadith of Al-Nawawi" by Jamaal al-Din M. Zarabozo)



Ancient manuscript of the Psalms

for the worship of Allah, and the celebration of His Praises. Allah said in Surat-un-Nisaa':

"And to Dawood We gave the Psalms." [4:163]

With his great heart and a beautiful voice, Prophet Dawood used to move everyone around him: people, plants, birds, animals, and other creations of Allah. They used to praise Allah in unison with him whenever he sang.

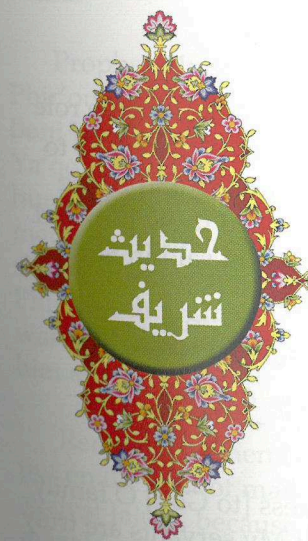
Allah Almighty said in Surat Saad:

"It was We Who made the hills declare, in unison with him, Our praises at eventide and at break of day; and the birds gathered (in assemblies): all with him did turn (to Allah). We strengthened his kingdom, and gave him wisdom and sound judgment in speech and decision." [38:17-20]

And in Surat Saba' Allah said:

"And indeed, We have bestowed grace on Dawood from Us."

[we said,] "O you Mountains! Praise Allah with him! And you birds [also sing back with him]!" [34:10]



According to Imam Al-Bukhari, Abu Hurayrah narrated that the Prophet ﷺ said: "The reciting of Zaboor (i.e. The Psalms) was made easy for Dawood ﷺ. He used to order that his horses be saddled, and he would finish reciting the Zaboor before they were saddled. And he would never eat except from the earning of his manual work."

Allah here teaches us some lessons. He wants us to know that He blesses and empowers those who love Him, and use their talents and senses to worship and praise Him. Indeed, Allah likes us to use our talents that he created in us, like our beautiful voices, in good and spiritual activities. It is unfortunate that many Muslims use their voices, looks, musical talents, and other gifts in unlawful songs, parties, and activities.

Another lesson we learn from the above is that Allah likes us to recite His book and praise Him in a beautiful way. This is why we should learn Tajweed, or the rules of the recitation of the Qur'an.

### Hadeeth Shareef

عن البراء رضي الله عنه قال : سمعت رسول الله يقول :  
"حَسِّنُوا الْقُرْآنَ بِأَصْوَاتِكُمْ ، فَإِنَّ الصَّوْتِ الْحَسَنَ يَزِيدُ الْقُرْآنَ حُسْنًا"

رواه البخاري ومسلم

Al-Baraa' narrated that he heard Rasoolullah saying:  
"Beautify the Qur'an with your [nice] recitation, for the good voice makes the Qur'an more beautiful."

Reported by Al-Bukhari and Muslim



## Dawood's Worship

Some people feel it is too much to pray five times a day. Others feel burdened by fasting the month of Ramadan! Let's learn

what Prophet Muhammad said about the way Prophet Dawood used to pray and fast.



### Hadeeth Shareef

عن عبد الله بن عمرو رضي الله عنه قال: قال رسول الله ﷺ: **أَحَبُّ الصَّيَامِ إِلَى اللَّهِ صِيَامُ دَاوُدَ، كَانَ يَصُومُ يَوْمًا وَيُفْطِرُ يَوْمًا، وَأَحَبُّ الصَّلَاةِ إِلَى اللَّهِ صَلَاةُ دَاوُدَ، كَانَ يَنَامُ نِصْفَ اللَّيْلِ وَيَقُومُ ثُلُثَهُ وَيَنَامُ سُدُسَهُ.**

رواه البخاري

Abdullah bin 'Amr narrated that Rasoolullah ﷺ had said: "The best fasting is that of Dawood عليه السلام and the best prayer is that of Dawood, because he slept half of the night and stood for prayer for the third of it, and (then) slept the sixth part of it. And he used to fast one day and break his fast on the other. (Sahih Al-Bukhari)

Allah sent prophets to show people how devout servants of God worship their maker. They worshiped Allah day and night with great sincerity and devotion. Worshiping Allah was for them the sweetest and most important activity they performed every day. They saw prayer and other forms of worship as a way to love Allah more and get close to Him. Allah says in Surat-un-Nahl:

﴿وَلَقَدْ بَعَثْنَا فِي كُلِّ أُمَّةٍ رَسُولًا أَنِ اعْبُدُوا اللَّهَ﴾ النحل: ٣٦

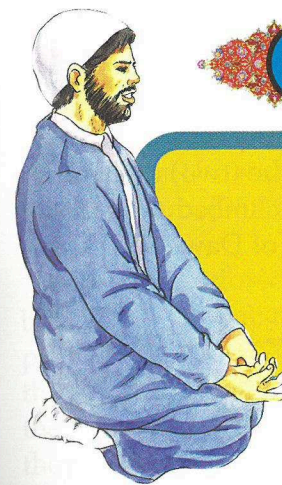
"And We have sent among every people a messenger [with the command]: worship God..." [16:36]

Prophet Dawood عليه السلام was a true role model and worshipper of God. He used to spend most of his time praying and doing pious deeds. Worship indeed drew him and his family near to Allah. God said in Surat Saba':

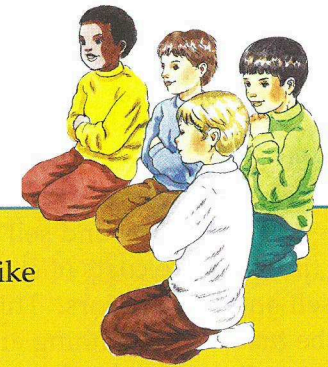
﴿اعْمَلُوا آلَ دَاوُدَ شُكْرًا وَقَلِيلٌ مِّنْ عِبَادِيَ الشَّكُورُ﴾ سبأ: ١٣

"Exercise thankfulness [to God] O family of Dawood, only few of My servants are truly grateful!" [34:13]

## FAITH IN ACTION



★ Worship Allah as much as you can, just like Prophet Dawood used to do.



## The Miracle of Soft Iron

You have probably studied about ancient Egyptian history in your history class. What do you think of when you hear the word Egypt? Do you think about the huge pyramids and the Nile River? Or do you remember the story of Prophet Musa and the Bani Israel, or the Children of Israel, in Egypt? For us Muslims Egypt is important not because of its huge pyramids and sphinx, it is important because Egypt is the birthplace of Prophet Musa.

Prophet Musa was born at the time of Phir'oun. Phir'oun was a ruler who hated Bani Israel, the descendants of Prophet Ya'qoub or Jacob. Phir'oun tried very hard to humiliate and disrespect Bani Israel. He made the women and men of Bani Israel into slaves working for very little, or no pay at all. Phir'oun thought of himself as a god, and he wanted his people to obey him and worship him alone.

Remember when Dawood didn't like to put on the coat of mail when he fought against Jaloot, because it restricted his movement? Later, Allah taught Dawood a new technology of making coats of mail that fit better on warriors. God blessed him with a miracle that no one had before. Amazingly,



the iron became soft for him, so he could make better coats of mail. Allah said in Surat Saba':

﴿وَأَنَّا لَهُ الْخَدِيدُ﴾ ١٠ ﴿أَنِ اعْمَلْ سَابِغَةً وَقَدِّرْ فِي السَّرْدِ﴾ ١١ ﴿وَأَعْمَلُوا صَلَاحًا إِنَّي بِمَا تَعْمَلُونَ بَصِيرٌ﴾ سبأ: ١٠ - ١١



"And We made the iron soft for him."  
"Make coats of mail, balancing well the rings of chain armor." [34:10-11]

By the Grace of Allah, the iron metal became soft and pliable in the hands of Dawood. Therefore, he could make new instruments for fighting and self defense. He was the first to make coats of chain armors for himself and his warriors. This armors have to be made with cunning art, for the chains are to fit into each other, and for the whole garment to be worn in comfort in fierce warfare.

Imam Mujahid said: "Allah Almighty helped Dawood عليه السلام to make the defensive armor from iron so he could fortify himself against the enemy, then He taught him how to manufacture it." Prophet Dawood earned his living by manufacturing these coats of mail. It is a known fact that Prophet Dawood used to earn his living.

Yet, Allah wanted Dawood and his warriors to be careful that they did not deviate from the path of righteousness. Fighting is a dangerous thing and it may become evil violence. Allah directs his servants to be righteous and ethical in times of peace and war. They should be always mindful that God is watching over them.

## Rushing to Judgment

Allah Almighty said concerning Prophet Dawood:

"We strengthened his kingdom, and gave him wisdom and sound judgment in speech and decision."

Allah granted Dawood the intelligence and the wisdom of a prophet, a leader, and a judge. Part of Dawood's training was to go through some tests.

Prophet Dawood used to retreat to his private chamber at certain times for his worship. One day, suddenly, his privacy was

invaded by two men who had obtained access by climbing over a wall. Dawood was frightened.

In Surat Saad, Allah tells this interesting story:

And has the story of the (two) disputants reached you? When they climbed over the wall of the private room [of Dawood where he prayed] [38:21]

وَهَلْ أَتَاكَ نَبَأُ الْخَصْمِ إِذْ سَوَّرُوا الْمِحْرَابَ ﴿٢١﴾ إِذْ دَخَلُوا عَلَى دَاوُدَ فَفَزِعَ مِنْهُمْ قَالُوا لَا تَخَفْ خَصْمَانِ بَغَى بَعْضُنَا عَلَى بَعْضٍ فَاحْكُم بَيْنَنَا بِالْحَقِّ وَلَا تُشْطِطْ وَاهْدِنَا إِلَى سَوَاءِ الصِّرَاطِ ﴿٢٢﴾ إِنَّ هَذَا أَخِي لَهُ تِسْعٌ وَتِسْعُونَ نَجَّةً وَلِي نَجَّةٌ وَاحِدَةٌ فَقَالَ أَكْفِلْنِيهَا وَعَزَّنِي فِي الْخِطَابِ ﴿٢٣﴾ قَالَ لَقَدْ ظَلَمَكَ بِسُؤَالِ نَجَاتِكَ إِلَى تِلْكَ إِذْ يَنْتَهِى مِنَ الْخِطَابِ لِيَبْنِي بَعْضُهُمْ عَلَى بَعْضٍ إِلَّا الَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا وَعَمِلُوا الصَّالِحَاتِ وَقَلِيلٌ مَا هُمْ وَظَنَّ دَاوُدُ أَنَّمَا فَتَنَّاهُ فَاسْتَغْفَرَ رَبَّهُ وَخَرَّ رَاكِعًا وَأَنَابَ ﴿٢٤﴾ فَغَفَرْنَا لَهُ ذَلِكَ وَإِنَّ لَهُ عِندَنَا لَزُلْفَى وَحُسْنَ مَآبٍ ﴿٢٥﴾ ص: ٢١ - ٢٥

When they entered in presence of Dawood (David), and he was frightened of them. They said: "Fear not: We are two disputing individuals; one of us has wronged the other: Therefore, judge between us now with truth, and do not treat us with injustice, and guide us to the right way." [38:22] "Verily, this man is my brother [in faith]: He has ninety and nine ewes (female sheep), and I have [only] one: Yet he says, 'Leave her (the one sheep) to me,' and he is rude to me when he talks." [38:23] [Dawood] said: "Without a doubt he has done wrong to you by asking you for [the single] sheep to add to his (herd of) sheep: And truly, there are many partners [in business] who do wrong to each other, except those who believe and do good deeds do not act like that, and

how few are they?"... And then Dawood realized that We had tested him, and he repented to his Lord, prostrated, and turned to Allah in repentance. [38:24] So, We forgave him [for] this: And he really enjoyed an extreme closeness to Us, and a Beautiful Place of [final] Return. [38:25]

The accusation of the man against his brother was novel; not a real one. But prophet Dawood (AS) didn't realize that in the beginning. He only figured that out when the two men vanished as mysteriously as they had come. At that time, he discovered that the case was just a test for him. And that he made a basic mistake, he rushed to judgment. He judged against the second person even before listening to his side of the story. Prophet Dawood thought that the case was an easy and clear one, and he was over-confident of himself as a knowledgeable Prophet and wise king.

But God wanted to teach him the highest standards of justice. A great judge or leader is the one who reserves his or her judgment until after listening to the other side even when the case appears to be very clear like in this story.

Allah says in Surat Saad that he said to Prophet Dawood,

يَا دَاوُدُ إِنَّا جَعَلْنَاكَ خَلِيفَةً فِي الْأَرْضِ فَاحْكُم بَيْنَ النَّاسِ بِالْحَقِّ وَلَا تَتَّبِعِ الْهَوَىٰ فَيُضِلَّكَ عَنْ سَبِيلِ اللَّهِ إِنَّ الَّذِينَ يَضِلُّونَ عَنْ سَبِيلِ اللَّهِ لَهُمْ عَذَابٌ شَدِيدٌ بِمَا نَسُوا يَوْمَ الْحِسَابِ ﴿٣٦﴾ ص: ٢٦

"Oh Dawood! Verily, We truly made you a Khaleefah (heir and leader) on Earth: So you judge between men in truth (and justice): And do not follow prejudice, for it will take you away from the Path of Allah: Verily, those who go away from the Path of Allah will face a painful penalty, because they forget the Day of Judgment [38.26].

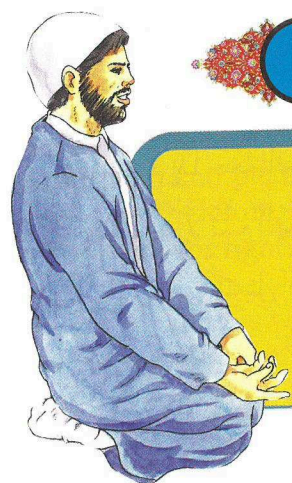
Prophet Dawood (P) realized that his kingly power, wisdom and apostleship were bestowed on him as a trust. These great things are to be used wisely. It was God's grace that gave him wisdom and power, and he should follow Allah's rules of justice carefully, not hastily. When he realized his lapse, he fell down to his knees in repentance.

### Selected Story

#### Listen to the Other Side

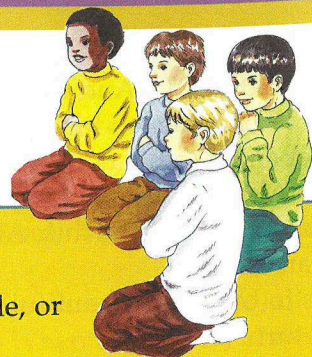
A man came to a Muslim judge complaining that another person had poked his eye. The man was crying out of pain, and blood was soaking his clothes. The people around the judge urged him to order the police to arrest the accused man and throw him in jail. The judge refused to do that and said, "Not before listening to his side of the story!." The men then said, "He just popped the guy's eye." To that the judge answered, "I don't know what this person has done, he may have poked both eyes of the other person."





## FAITH IN ACTION

- ★ Always try to be fair.
- ★ Avoid rushing to judgment in favor people, or against others.
- ★ Always listen to both sides of an argument or a conflict to reach a fair judgment.



## An Israelite Tale

Imam Ibn Katheer and other great scholars of Tafseer exposed a grave mistake some historians had done when they spoke about the story of the two men. They claimed that Prophet Dawood liked a wife of one of his army generals. So he wanted to have the lady as his wife. To do that, Prophet Dawood conspired to have that general stationed in a dangerous post during the battle. This was an attempt to cause him to die. When the general got killed, Prophet Dawood then married the general's wife.

This story is one of the Israelite tales that fail to pass the test of accuracy and authenticity. An Israelite story or narration is one that was reported by ancient Israelite historians. Scholars of Islam warn against accepting these Israelite tales without proper screening

and scrutiny. Some of the Israelite tales are correct, but many others are false. False Israelite tales are examples of the changes that were injected into previous scriptures.

The Qur'an and Prophet Muhammad never mentioned this false tale. Some books claimed that the story was told by Sahabi Anas Ibn Malik, but the chain of narrators of that fabricated story was very weak. The chain includes at least two very unauthentic narrators, Ibn Luhay'ah and Yazeed Ar-Arqashi. Therefore Imams Al-Bukhari, Muslim, and other prominent collectors of hadeeth never reported this story. Therefore, Imam Ibn Katheer, Ar-Razi, and other scholars of Tafseer and hadeeth dismissed this tale as a myth. A great prophet like Dawood would never have committed such an act.

## Dawood Passes Away

Ibn Abbas narrated: When Adam عليه السلام saw his offspring and the prophets among them, he noticed a man with a shining face. Adam عليه السلام asked Allah Almighty: "O Lord, who is he?"

Allah Almighty said: "This is your son Dawood." Prophet Adam said: "O Lord, how many years will his age be?" Allah Almighty said: "Sixty years." Adam عليه السلام

implored: "O Lord, increase his age." Allah said: "I will increase his age, but from yours." Adam's age was 1000 years, but forty years from his age were given to Dawood عليه السلام. When the Angel of Death came to Adam عليه السلام, Adam said to him: "There are forty years more, and he forgot the forty years which were given to his son Dawood عليه السلام. Hence Allah left Adam to live for 1000 years, and Dawood to live 100 years.

Prophet Dawood died in Al-Quds, or Jerusalem. He was survived by his great son Suleyman, or Solomon.

## CHAPTER REVIEW

### Projects and Activities

1. Research the lineage of Prophet Dawood in relation to Prophets Musa and Isa.
2. Make armor out of chain mail, along with your classmates.
3. Compare the chain mail flexibility on the body with that of a regular coat of armor.



### Stretch Your Mind

1. What did you learn from the incident of Jaloot's death?
2. Why do you think some historians made up a false story about Prophet Dawood's marriage with a wife of his general?



### Study Questions

- 1 Who are: a. Dawood b. Taloot c. Jaloot
- 2 How did Dawood become a hero?
- 3 What lessons did you learn from Dawood when he challenged Jaloot?
- 4 How was Dawood's relationship with God? Support your answer with a Hadeeth.
- 5 What are the basic principles of justice when judging between two conflicting individuals or parties?
- 6 Define an "Israelite tale," and give an example of these tales concerning Prophet Dawood.
- 7 Where did Prophet Dawood die, and at what age?



# UNIT

## A

### CHAPTER

#### FIVE

## The Greatest King: The Story of Prophet Suleyman

### CHAPTER OBJECTIVES

- 1 Explore the great stories of Prophet Suleyman.
- 2 Learn about the great characteristics of this messenger of Allah.
- 3 Appreciate the attitudes of gratefulness, humility, and piety shown by Prophet Suleyman.

One day, thousands of years ago, Prophet Suleyman, the son of Prophet Dawood, prayed to Allah, and asked Him for a kingdom that no one after him would have like it, and Allah granted his wish.

Allah responded to Suleyman's prayer. He blessed him with many amazing gifts and powers. Allah made him a prophet and a king, just like his father, Prophet Dawood. He also acquired great wisdom and very sound judgment. Allah also blessed him with many abilities; he could speak to animals, control the winds, and command the Jinn, among other powers. In this chapter, you will learn many amazing lessons and facts about Prophet Suleyman.

### Suleyman's Spiritual Inheritance

Prophet Suleyman was the greatest king in the history of mankind. He is known in history books as King Solomon. He inherited his kingdom from his father, Prophet Dawood, who is known in history books as King David. However, power and kingdom were not the greatest gifts Prophet Dawood passed on to his son Prophet Suleyman, as many people may think. Instead, faith, morality and spirituality were by far the greatest inheritance Suleyman acquired from his father.

### Related Text

وَلَقَدْ آتَيْنَا دَاوُودَ وَسُلَيْمَانَ عِلْمًا وَقَالَا الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ الَّذِي فَضَّلَنَا عَلَى كَثِيرٍ

مِنْ عِبَادِهِ الْمُؤْمِنِينَ ﴿١٥﴾

And indeed, We gave knowledge to Dawood (David) and to Suleyman (Solomon): And they both said: "All the praises (and thanks) be to Allah, Who has chosen us above many of His servants who believe!" [27:15]

### The Story of Suleyman and the Ant

One of the most fascinating stories of Prophet Suleyman is that of the ant. Allah says in Surat-un-Naml:

"Till when they came to a valley of the ants, (and) one of the ants said: "O you ants, get into your houses, lest Suleyman (Solomon) and his armies will crush you (while marching) without knowing it."

So he (Suleyman) smiled, amused at her speech; And he said: "O my Lord! Command me that I may be thankful for Your mercies, which You have blessed upon me and upon my parents, and that I may act righteous that will please You: And admit me, by Your Grace, to the ranks of your righteous servants." [27:18-19]

Within the ant's speech above there was order, warning, and an excuse for Prophet Suleyman and his army; how more articulate could that be?

As you can tell, Prophet Suleyman **عليه السلام** understood the ant's speech and smiled. Although he was a great king with authority and power, in front of Allah he was a humble servant. He prayed to Allah that his power and wisdom and all other gifts, might be used for righteousness, and for the benefit of all those around him.



Suleyman also mentioned his parents in his prayer, because his father was Allah's Prophet, Dawood **عليه السلام**, and his mother was a righteous servant.

We learn many thoughtful lessons from this story. But one lesson stands out: the most remarkable events may be brought to light by the most humble creatures.



## Humble Creature with a Great Achievement

The ant to the outward appearance is a very small and humble creature. She may be neglected or trampled on by people who meant her no harm. Yet with her wisdom, she carries on with her life and makes useful contributions to her world. She saved all her colony of ants. So there is room for the humblest people to achieve great things in this world.

## Great King with a Humble Attitude

The counter part to the position of the humble ant is the position of a great king like Suleyman. He was not arrogant like many kings and emperors throughout history. Instead, he cared about all creatures in his kingdom including the tiny ants. He also prayed that his powers may only be used for good causes and the benefit of the world.

## Suleyman's Horses

Allah said in Surat Saad:

﴿وَوَهَبْنَا لِدَاوُدَ سُلَيْمَانَ نِعَمَ الْعَبْدِ إِنَّهُ أَوَّابٌ ﴿٣٠﴾  
إِذْ عَرَضَ عَلَيْهِ بِالْعَشيِّ الصَّفِينَتُ الْجَيَادُ ﴿٣١﴾ فَقَالَ  
إِنِّي أَحْبَبْتُ حُبَّ الْخَيْرِ عَنْ ذِكْرِ رَبِّي حَتَّى تَوَارَتْ  
بِالْحِجَابِ ﴿٣٢﴾ رُدُّوهَا عَلَيَّ فطَفِقَ مَسْحًا بِالسُّوقِ  
وَالْأَعْنَاقِ ﴿٣٣﴾﴾ ص: ٣٠ - ٣٣

And to Dawood (David), We gave him (his son) Suleyman (Solomon) Verily, he always turned (to Us) very well in Our service! "Behold, there were brought before him, at eventide, courses of the highest breeding and swift of foot;

When, in the evening, horses of the finest breeding, and quick in running, were brought before him

And he (Suleyman) said: "Truly, I love the good things, in order to see the Glory of my Lord," until (the sun) was hidden behind the curtain of (dusk). (During this late Asr-Maghrib time, Suleyman used to pray to Allah.)

[Then, he said]: "Bring [the horses] back to me." Then he began to pass his hand over [their] legs and their necks. [38:30-33]

The scholars of Tafseer interpreted the above ayaat in the following manner:

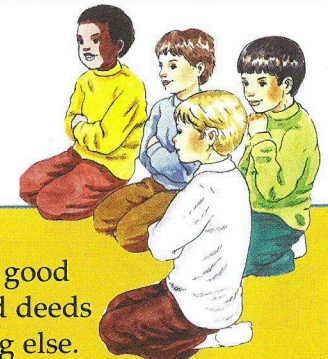
Prophet Suleyman عليه السلام was so fond of his fine horses. One day he was working on the horses that he had completely forgotten to say his 'Asr prayer before the sunset. Obviously, he didn't leave the prayer intentionally. Although he overlooked the prayer for the reason of jihad, he still blamed himself for that. His love of horses was not a mere race-goer, rather there was a spiritual element in it. His love of people and things was mostly a spiritual kind of love - the love of the highest God.

Like his father Dawood, Prophet Suleyman was also very careful not to allow his desires and temptations to be mixed up with his spiritual life. He loved horses and had great armies and wealth, but he used them all in God's service. And his battles were not fought for lust of blood, but as jihad in the cause of righteousness.



## FAITH IN ACTION

- ★ Always put God's worship and other good deeds first. Do not delay prayer and good deeds until after a game, a TV show, or anything else. Do your spiritual duties first and then attend to other daily and worldly business.

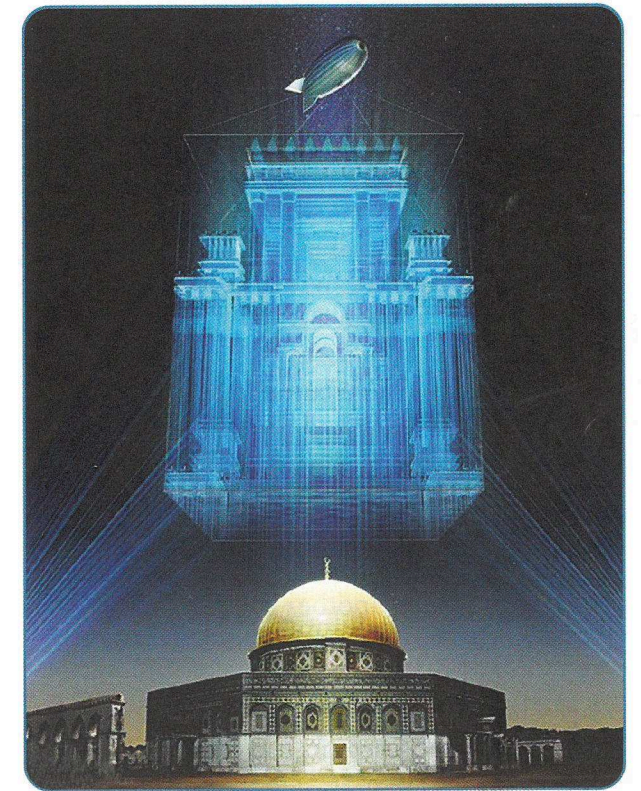


## Suleyman and Jerusalem

Prophet Suleyman did his best to spread Islam and root out idolatry in the ancient world. For that, he completed a great house of worship in Jerusalem for the worship of the One True God.

Prophet Muhammad (SAW) said: "When Suleyman built Bayt Al-Maqdis, he asked Allah to grant him three things. Allah gave him two and we hope that the third one would be ours. He asked him for a kingdom that does not belong to any other after him. Allah gave it to him. The second was to grant him a judgment close to that of Allah and He gave it to him. The third thing he asked God that any man leaving his house wanting nothing but to pray in this House (The mosque in Makkah) be forgiven of all his sins as the day he was born."

All traces of Suleyman's temple had disappeared a long time ago and cannot be found anywhere in Jerusalem today. Unfortunately, some extremist Jewish groups are trying to rebuild Suleyman's temple on the same spot of Al-Masjid Al-Aqsa and the Dome of the Rock which were built in Jerusalem thousands of years later. Most Christians, Jews and all Muslims are against this evil plan.



An image published in Wired Magazine that shows a holograph of an imaginary image of "King Solomon's Temple." Some extreme Jewish groups like to build it in the place of Al-Masjid Al-Aqsa and Qubbat-us-Sakhrah, or the Dome of the Rock.



## Suleyman's Wisdom

Suleyman was known for his wisdom and sound judgment. Allah said in Surat-ul-Anbiyaa':

﴿فَفَهَّمْنَهَا سُلَيْمَانَ وَكُلًّا ءَايِنَّا حُكْمًا وَعِلْمًا  
وَسَخَّرْنَا مَعَ دَاوُدَ الْجِبَالَ يُسَبِّحْنَ وَالطَّيْرَ وَكُنَّا  
فَاعِلِينَ﴾ الأنبياء: ٧٩

"And We made Suleyman (Solomon) understand of the (complex) matters: And to each (of them) We gave judgment and knowledge; It was Our Power that made the hills and the birds celebrate Our praises with Dawood (David): And it was We Who did (all these things)." [21:79].

Imam Ibn Katheer relates this story in his book *Stories of the Prophets*. "One day, David was sitting, as usual, solving the problems of his people, when two men, one of whom had a field, came to him. The owner of the field said; "O dear Prophet! This man's sheep came to my field at night and ate up the grapes and I have come to ask for compensation." David asked the owner of the sheep: "Is this true?" he said: "Yes, sir." David said: "I have decided that you give him your sheep in exchange for the field." Solomon, to whom Allah had given wisdom, spoke up: "I have another opinion. The owner of the sheep should take the field to cultivate until the grapes grow, while the other man should take the sheep and make use of their wool and milk, until his field is repaired. If the great grapes grow, and the field returns to its former state, then the field owner should take his field and give back the sheep to their owner."

David responded: "This is a sound judgment. Praise be to Allah for gifting you with wisdom. You are truly Solomon the Wise."

Allah hints at this incident in Surat-ul-Anbiyaa':

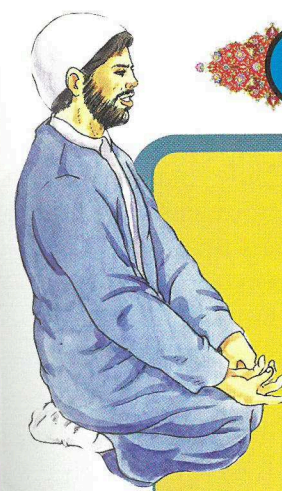
﴿وَدَاوُدَ وَسُلَيْمَانَ إِذْ يَحْكُمَانِ فِي الْحَرْثِ  
إِذْ نَفَسَتْ فِيهِ غَنَمُ الْقَوْمِ وَكُنَّا لِحُكْمِهِمْ  
شَاهِدِينَ﴾

"And remember Dawood and Suleyman, when they gave judgment in the matter of the field into which the sheep of certain people had strayed by night." [21:78]

Another similar story is mentioned in *Sahih Al-Bukhari* and *Sahih Muslim* on the authority of Abu-Hurayrah said that the Prophet ﷺ said: "While two women were out with their babies, a wolf snatched one of the babies. The two women quarreled. Each one claimed that the wolf snatched the other's baby. And each one claimed that the baby left was hers.... When they went to Suleyman, he said, "Bring me a knife, so I can divide the baby between you. Each one will take half." The younger woman begged: "No! Give it to her."

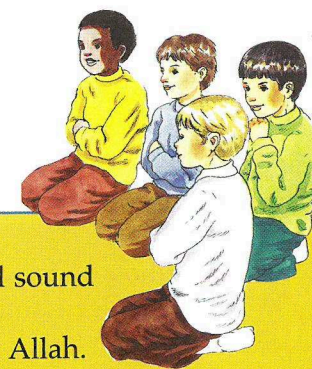
Suleyman judged that the baby belonged to the younger woman and gave it to her. He concluded that the older woman was not the mother, because she did not mind dividing the baby. And no real mother would ever agree to divide her own baby in half.

After all, Allah was the One who inspired Suleyman and blessed him with such wisdom and sound judgment.



### FAITH IN ACTION

- ★ Always ask Allah to grant you wisdom and sound judgment. You can gain this through strong spirituality, and a good relation with Allah. Allah is the source of inspirations and Tawfeeq, or success.
- ★ You can also acquire that through intensive reading of the Qur'an, the Sunnah, and other good sources of knowledge. Being close to knowledgeable, inspired, and wise people helps us gain wisdom and sound judgment.



## The Wind and other Natural Resources

As mentioned earlier, God bestowed such abundant powers and bounties on Suleyman that they could not be counted or measured; and he was free to give away or withhold anything as he liked. Allah made it easy for him to make use of Earth's natural resources.

Suleyman had miraculous powers over the winds. He could make them obey his orders. It is said that when Suleyman wanted to go to war, he would have a raft and put all his army and all its needs on it. He would then order the wind to carry him wherever he wanted in a very short time. The winds are swift, and they can cover in a short morning or evening the distance which requires a whole month to travel on foot or on camel-back.

Allah said in Surat Saad:

"Then We subjected the wind to his

power, to flow gently to his order, whithersoever he willed, -as also the evil ones, (including) every kind of builder and diver -as also others bound together in fetters. "Such are Our Bounties: whether you bestow them (on others) or withhold them, no account will be asked," And he enjoyed, indeed, a Near Approach to Us, and a beautiful Place of (final) Return." [38:36-40]

Allah also helped Suleyman عليه السلام by making use of a fountain of flowing brass to help him make weapons, other tools, and utensils:

"and We made a font (fountain) of molten brass to flow." [34:12]

## The Jinn Servants of Suleyman

Prophet Suleyman also had power over the supernatural beings, like the jinn. As you learned earlier, the jinn are a nation that Allah created from fire. They are invisible to us, but they inhabit Planet Earth like we do.



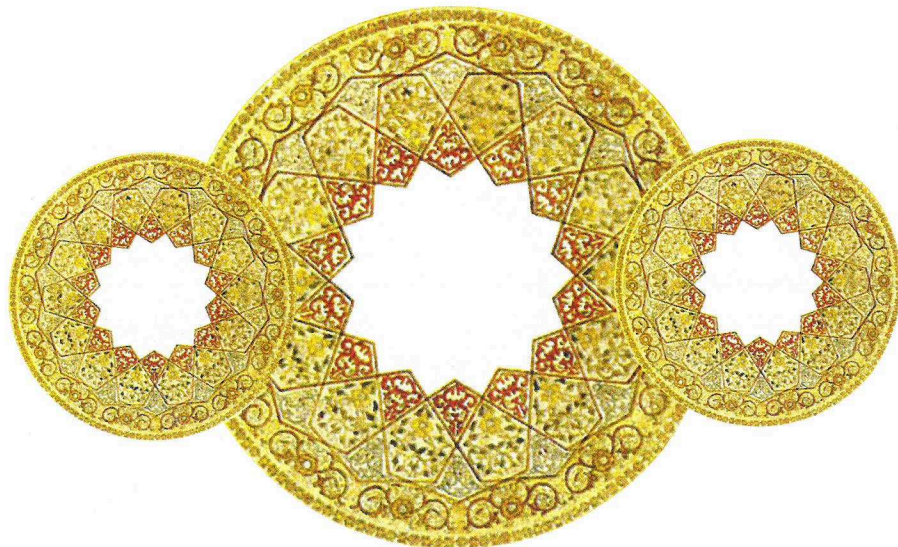
Jinn can be good or evil, Muslim or non-Muslims. The father of the jinn is Iblees, who arrogantly disobeyed Allah and became a disbeliever. Prophet Suleyman used to compel the jinn to dive for pearls, and do other hard tasks.

The workers who are jinns were only working in front of Suleyman under his supervision. They built him basins or huge dishes, around which men could gather and eat. God made a fountain of brass to help Suleyman with the most needed material for his works.

It is said that the jinn servants were not as reliable workers as others had been. They viewed their work for Prophet Suleyman as a penalty. Other people who worked heart and soul at the Temple of Suleyman were addressed as the People of David. They worked and glorified their work as a thanksgiving to God, and their work became sacred.

## The Death of Prophet Suleyman

All humans will eventually die, even



prophets, kings, and great people. However great and glorious power may be, it will only last for a short time, and may fade away even before people know of its decline. Prophet Suleyman was not an exception.

Zaid ibn Aslam said: "Suleyman ordered the jinn to build a palace from slabs of glass without doors, and he stood up to pray leaning on his staff. Whereupon, the Angel of Death came and grasped Suleyman's soul while he was leaning on his staff. At that time, the jinn were working and looking at Suleyman عليه السلام thinking that he was alive. But Allah sent a worm of the earth, which slowly gnawed away at his staff, and he fell down. When the jinn saw that, they dispersed and went, as Allah said in Surat Saba':

"Then when We ordered the death (for Suleyman) nothing showed them (the jinns') his death except a little worm from the earth, which (slowly) kept biting away at his stick (staff): So when he (Suleyman) fell down, the jinns' clearly saw that, if they had known the unseen, they would not have been in the hard work). [34:14]

## CHAPTER REVIEW

### Projects and Activities

1. Write a poem or an essay on Prophet Suleyman.
2. Create a poster or a Power Point presentation on the holy sites in Al-Quds, or Jerusalem.



### Stretch Your Mind

1. Compare and contrast the lifestyle of Prophet Suleyman as a king, and another ordinary king of your choice.
2. Why do you think Allah gave Prophet Suleyman all the power he asked for?



### Study Questions

- 1 Write a short profile for Prophet Suleyman.
- 2 Write in your own creative way the story of Suleyman and the ants.
- 3 What is the moral of the story of Suleyman and the ants?
- 4 What is the moral of the story of Suleyman and the horses?
- 5 What did Prophet Suleyman build in Jerusalem? And for what reason did he build it?
- 6 Was Suleyman a wise judge? Support your answer with a story that proves your answer.